

### REMARKS

The final Office action dated January 24, 2008, and the references cited have been fully considered. In response, please enter the enclosed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and amendments, and consider the remarks presented herein. Reconsideration and/or further prosecution of the application is respectfully requested. No new matter is added herein.

Applicants appreciate the thoughtful examination of the application, for withdrawing the § 101 rejection, and for helping further prosecution of this application. Although Applicants do not relinquish its ability to argue the current rejections present in the Office action, as this application has been pending for an exceeding long duration, Applicants have amended the claims to define the initial search, rather than merely presenting arguments in order to further prosecution to completion and issuance. Support for this amendment includes the original specification at least from page 16, line 14 to page 19, line 20 and from page 21, line 18 to page 22, line 13 and FIG. 3A, including especially: page 16, ll. 14-22 (defining an endpoint), page 17 line 22 to page 18 line 5 (discussing T partitions of disjoint ranges for partitions/tiny trees); and page 21, line 20 to 21 and process block 302 of FIG. 3A (discussing lookup of the T disjoint ranges). Additionally, as a reminder, the word "substantially" does not render a claim indefinite (MPEP § 2173.05(b)), as it is tough to have an equal number endpoints in each partition when the number of endpoints is not a multiple of T). Applicants respectfully submit that the prior art of record neither teaches nor suggests this initial step of the search on the T disjoint ranges as recited in each of the independent claims. For at least these reasons, all claims are believed to be allowable.

Additionally, Applicants found a few obvious typographical errors in reviewing the originally filed specification, which have been corrected herein. First, "232" should have been "2<sup>32</sup>" (e.g., 255.255.255.255 or  $2^8 * 2^8 * 2^8 * 2^8$ ); a verb (is divided) was obviously missing from the paragraph; "larch" should have been "large;" and "end-point" should be "endpoint" to be consistent with the spelling elsewhere in the specification. All of these corrections are proper as evident at least from the paragraphs themselves.

In view of the above remarks and for at least the reasons presented herein, all pending claims are believed to be allowable over all prior art of record, the application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Office is respectfully requested to issue a timely Notice of allowance in this case. Applicant requests any and all rejections and/or objections be withdrawn. If, in the opinion of the Office, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Office is invited to call the undersigned attorney, as Applicants are open to discussing, considering, and resolving issues.

Applicants request a two-month extension of time is required. Should a different extension of time be deemed appropriate, Applicants hereby petition for such deemed extension of time. Applicants further authorize the charging of Deposit Account No. 501430 for any fees that may be due in connection with this paper (e.g., claim fees, extension of time fees) as required in addition to the payment made herewith using EFS-Web.

Respectfully submitted,  
**The Law Office of Kirk D. Williams**

Date: June 23, 2008

By



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